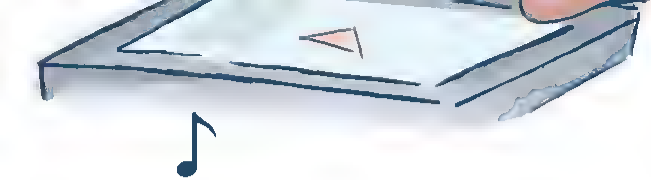
Late Bloomer

BY ZEALFORART

EPISODE 13. A DATE OR... STRICTLY BUSINESS?

SATURDAY MORNING

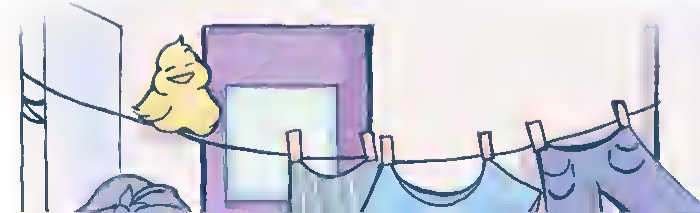


TYPICALLY ON SATURDAY, GALIVOYAGE'S HOURS ARE 12-5PM.

THIS USUALLY GIVES ME TIME IN THE MORNING TO SLEEP IN, RUN ERRANDS OR....

DO CHORES..

LIKE HANG
LAUNDRY...



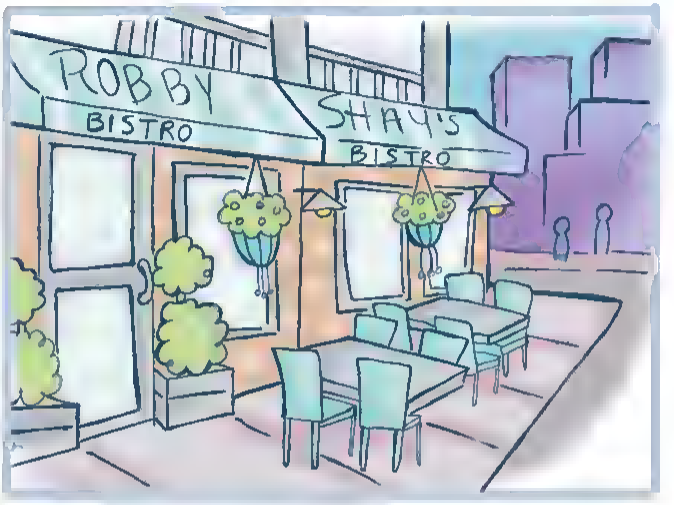
OR EVEN
BATHE PING ..

AND LUCKY ME, INSTEAD OF GOING TO WORK RIGHT AWAY...

BYE PING!

..I GET TO ATTEND MY FIRST FAM WITH EPRILLE THIS AFTERNOON.

WOW, THIS IS NICE.



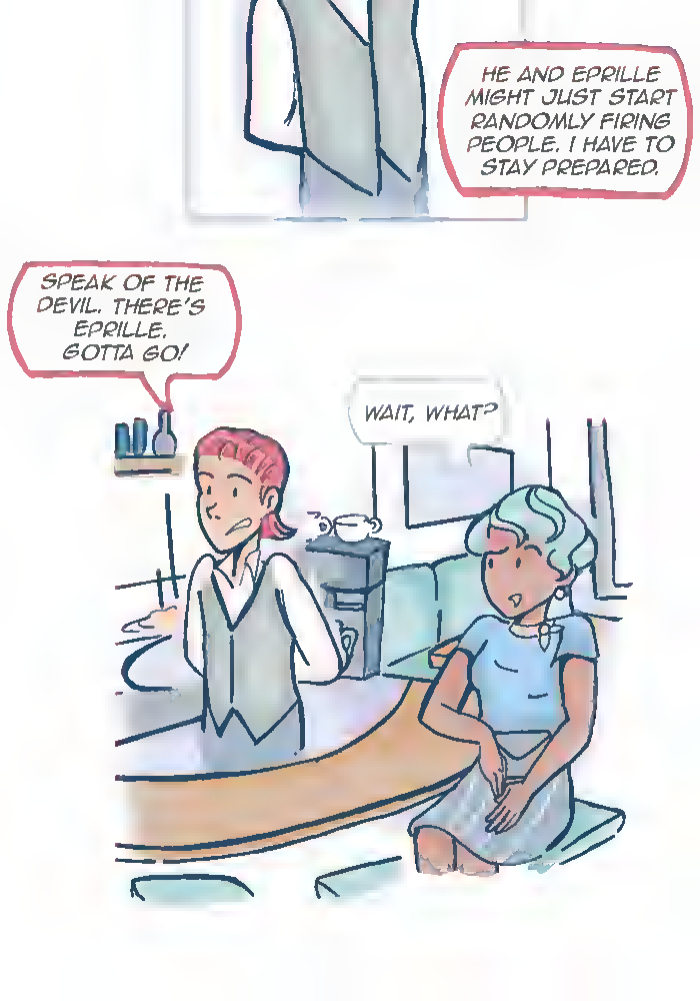
I DON'T SEE EPRILLE. I GUESS I'M HERE A LITTLE EARLY.

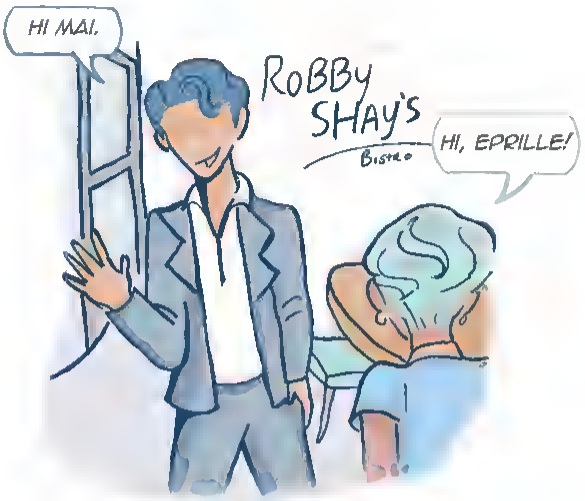
I'LL JUST SIT AT THE BAR AND WAIT FOR HIM.
GOOD AFTER-NOON. WHAT CAN I GET STARTED FOR YOU ?

FABIO?

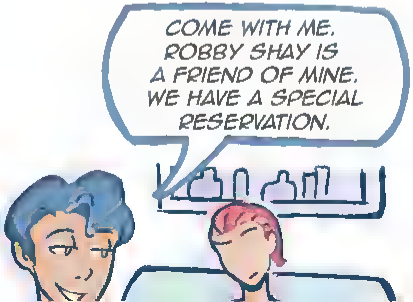
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? THEY JUST OPENED THIS BISTRO A WEEK AGO.

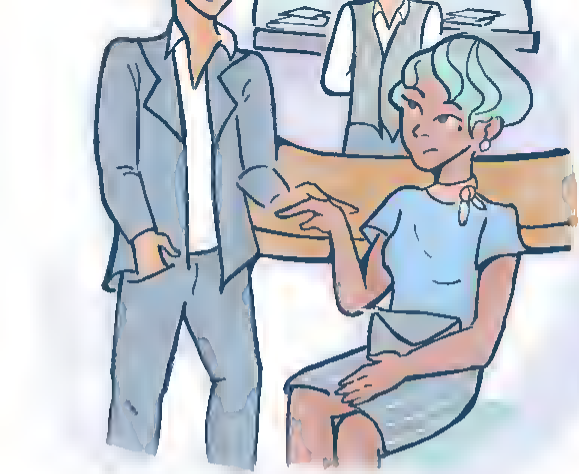
I HAVE TO WORK, ESPECIALLY WITH ALL THAT DRAMA GOING ON IN THE OFFICE WITH THE NEW GUY.


HE AND EPRILLE MIGHT JUST START RANDOMLY FIRING PEOPLE. I HAVE TO STAY PREPARED.
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL. THERE'S EPRILLE. GOTTA GO!
WAIT, WHAT?


HI MAI.
ROBBY SHAY'S
Bistro
HI, EPRILLE!

WOW, HE LOOKS QUITE HANDSOME TODAY.


COME WITH ME. ROBBY SHAY IS A FRIEND OF MINE. WE HAVE A SPECIAL RESERVATION.



SO HOW DO YOU LIKE THE AMBIANCE?

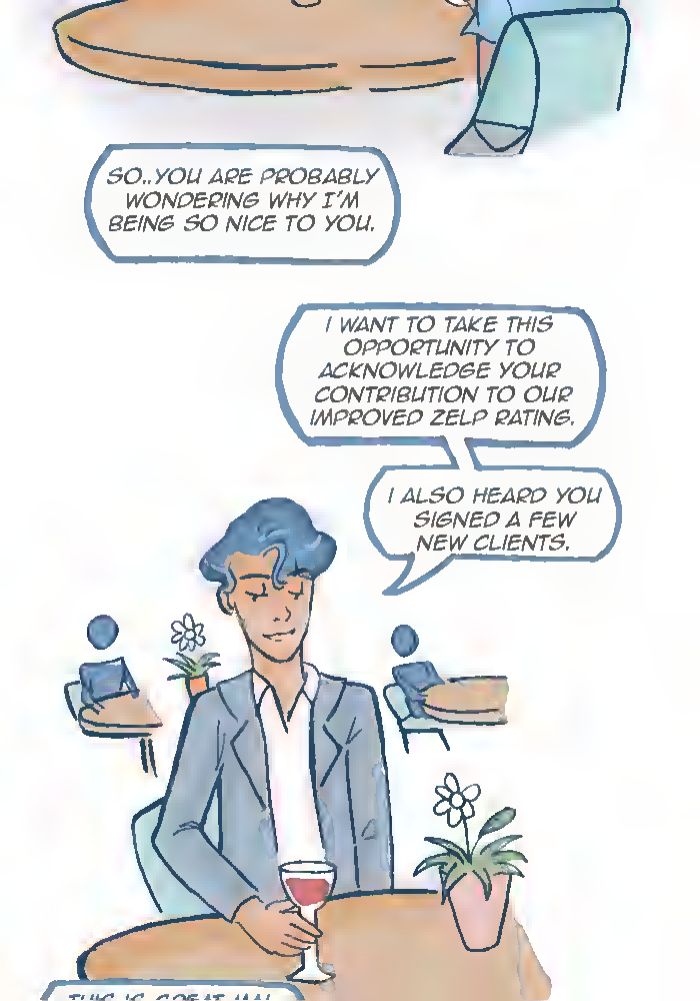
IT'S NICE. THE ATMOSPHERE IS VERY RELAXING.

GREAT, GLAD YOU LIKE IT.

NOW, BEFORE WE START EVALUATING....

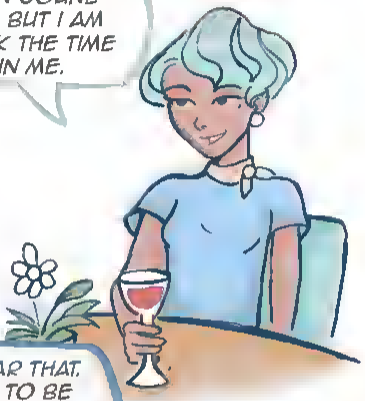
I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A TOAST TO YOU CELEBRATING THE END OF YOUR

PROBATION PERIOD.
CONGRATS ON YOUR IMPROVEMENT!
THANK YOU!
THIS IS KIND OF AWKWARD. WHY IS HE BEING SO NICE TO ME?


SO..YOU ARE PROBABLY WONDERING WHY I'M BEING SO NICE TO YOU.
I WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO OUR IMPROVED ZELP RATING.
I ALSO HEARD YOU SIGNED A FEW NEW CLIENTS.
THIS IS GREAT NA!

THIS IS GREAT MAT. NOW YOU ARE MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

THANKS EPRILLE, YOUR COUSIN JOLINE WAS TOUGH, BUT I AM GLAD HE TOOK THE TIME TO RETRAIN ME.



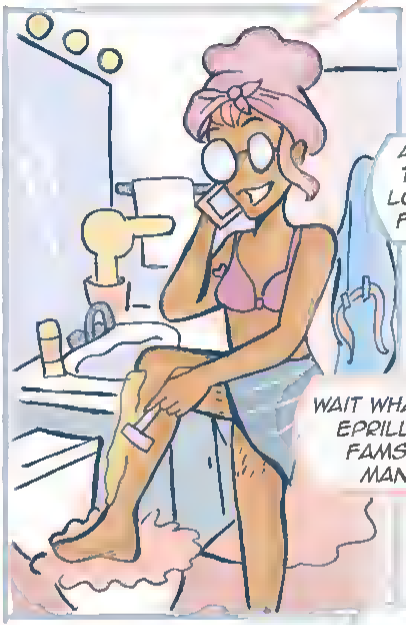
I AM GLAD TO HEAR THAT. JOLINE APPEARS TO BE PRETTY LAIDBACK, HOWEVER HE IS STRICT AND COMMITTED.

NOW, PLEASE PARDON ME FOR A SECOND...

I WONDER WHERE HE WENT. I'M READY TO ORDER FOOD. I AM REALLY HUNGRY.

HEY FLORA!
HEY, MAI DON'T FORGET WE ARE SUPPOSED TO VISIT DAISY AFTER WORK.
ALSO, IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL OUTSIDE, I'M THINKING

WE SHOULD GRAB SOME BREAKFAST AND COFFEE BEFORE WORK. YOU UP FOR IT?

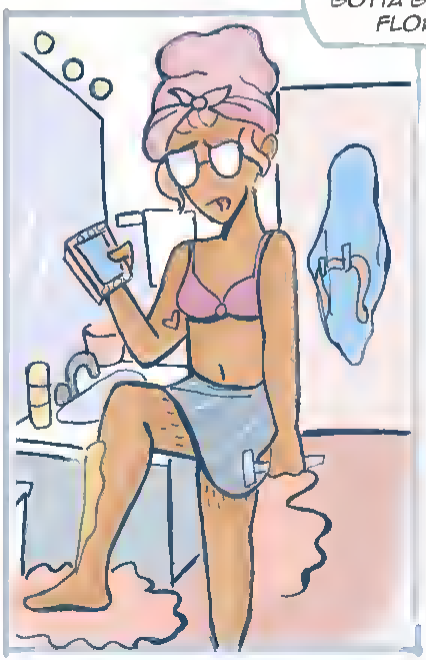


AW, I WOULD LOVE TO, BUT I'M ON A LOCAL RESTAURANT FAM WITH EPRILLE.

WAIT WHAT? NORMALLY EPRILLE GOES ON FAMS ONLY WITH MANAGEMENT.

WELL I MEAN, HE INVITED ME SO..

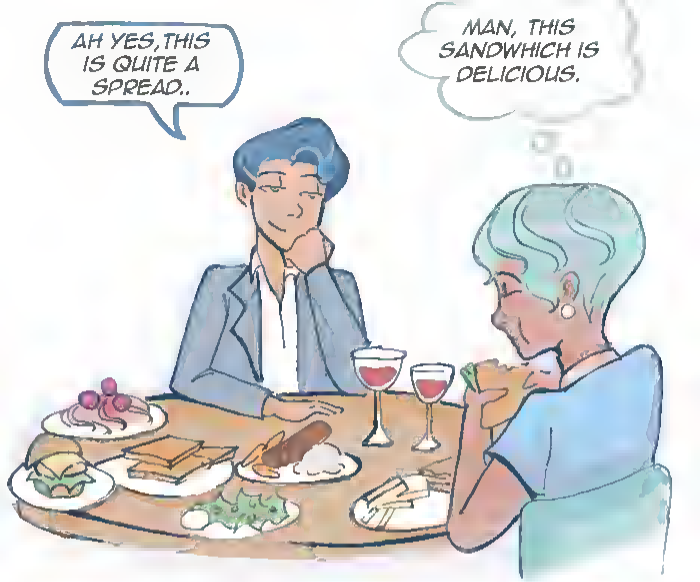
I UNDERSTAND, BUT I'M JUST SAYING MAI THAT'S WEIRD FOR HIM TO ASK YOU UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.


WE ARE ALSO CELEBRATING THE END OF MY PROBATION PERIOD. ...
MAI, BE CAUTIOUS I THINK HE'S COMING ON TO YOU.
YEAH RIGHT, GOTTA GO. BYE FLORA!

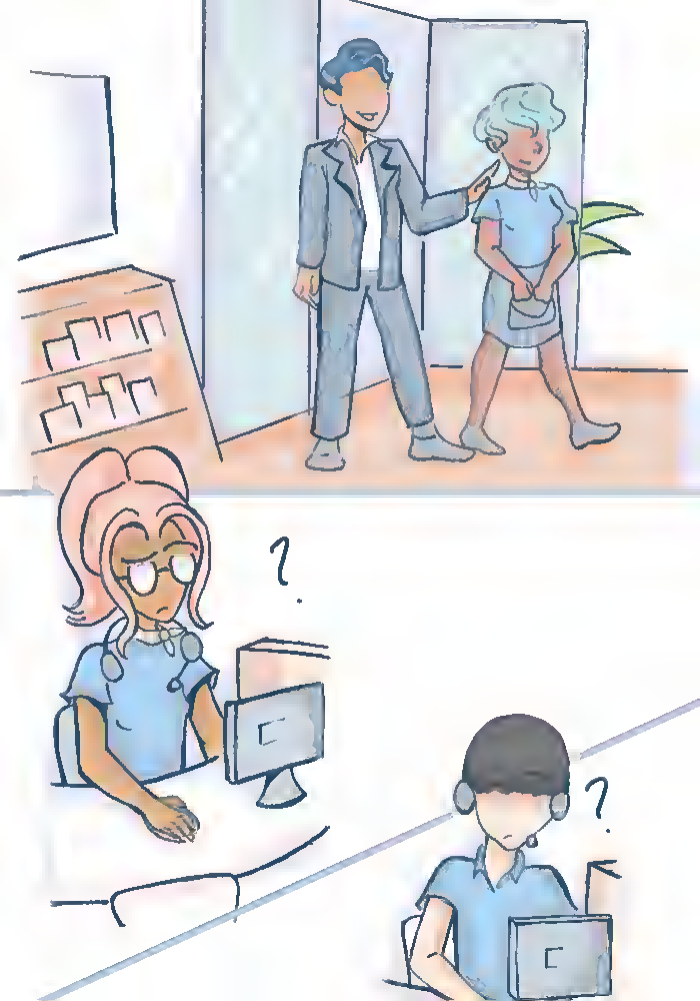
COULD SHE BE RIGHT? IS THAT WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT?
NAH... CAN'T BE...
HEY I'M BACK. I HOPE YOU ARE HUNGRY.
ROBBY HAS QUITE A SURPRISE

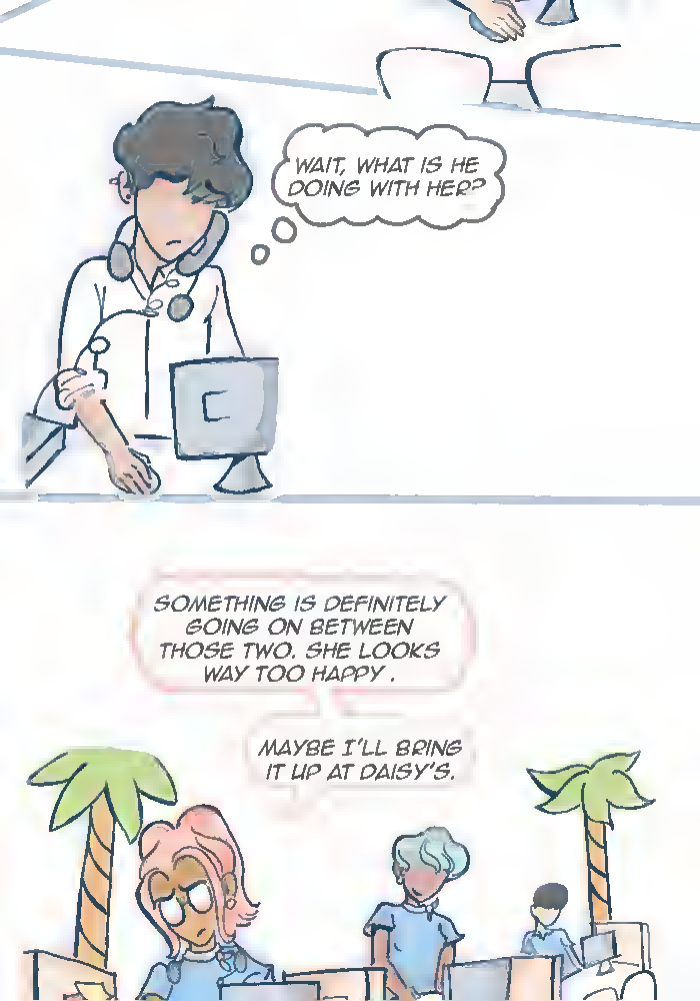
FOR US.
SO YOU MUST BE MAI. EPRILLE CALLED AHEAD, SO I PREPARED MY FINEST DISHES.
ENJOY! LET ME KNOW WHAT YOU THINK.

ROBBY WANTS GALI-VOYAGE TO SUP-PORT HIS BISTRO.
I HAD MARCHE STOCK SOME FLYERS AT THE FRONT DOOR.
THERE'S SO MUCH FOOD. I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START.



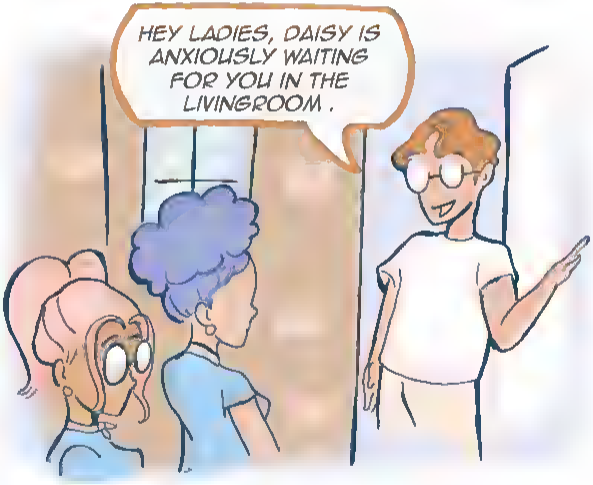
AFTER EPRILLE AND I FINISHED MY FIRST OFFICIAL FAM, WE HEADED BACK TO THE AGENCY. I WAS STUFFED.

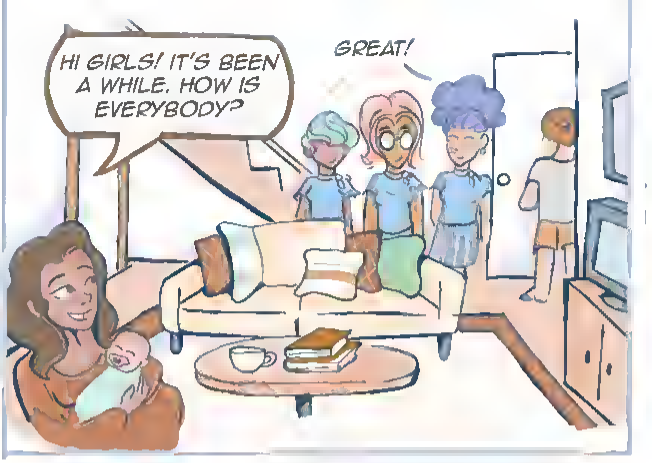



WAIT, WHAT IS HE DOING WITH HER?
SOMETHING IS DEFINITELY GOING ON BETWEEN THOSE TWO. SHE LOOKS WAY TOO HAPPY .
MAYBE I'LL BRING IT UP AT DAISY'S.

LATER THAT DAY
AT DAISY'S HOUSE.

BLAH,
BLAH..


HEY LADIES, DAISY IS ANXIOUSLY WAITING FOR YOU IN THE LIVINGROOM .



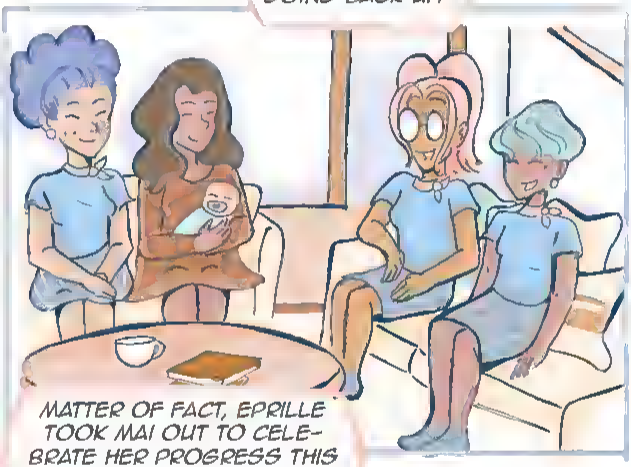
SO, GET THIS DAISY YOUR REPLACEMENT IS EPRILLE'S COUSIN.

AND THE FUNNY THING IS HE LOOKS LIKE A SLACKER, BUT HE'S ACTUALLY THE COMPANY'S REGIONAL MANAGER.

THAT'S CRAZY. SO HOW ARE SALES? BEFORE I LEFT THAT WAS A BIG CONCERN.

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, MAI AND I GOT RETRAINED BY THE NEW GUY JOUNE.

....AND SALES ARE SLOWLY GOING BACK UP.

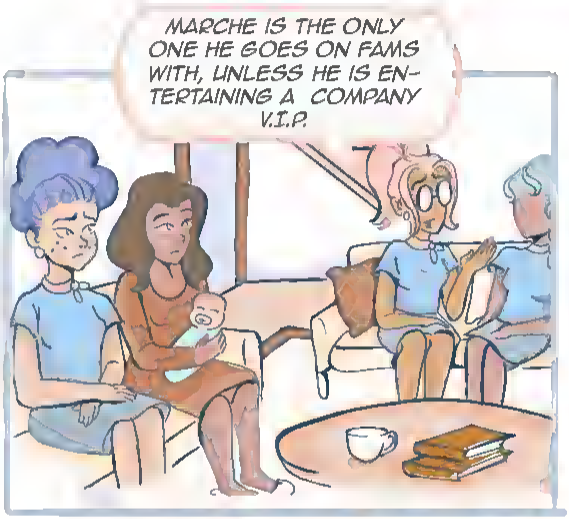


MATTER OF FACT, EPRILLE TOOK MAI OUT TO CELEBRATE HER PROGRESS THIS AFTERNOON. WHAT DO YOU GUYS THINK ABOUT THAT?

I'VE MENTIONED THIS BEFORE. IT SOUNDS A LITTLE SUSPICIOUS TO ME.

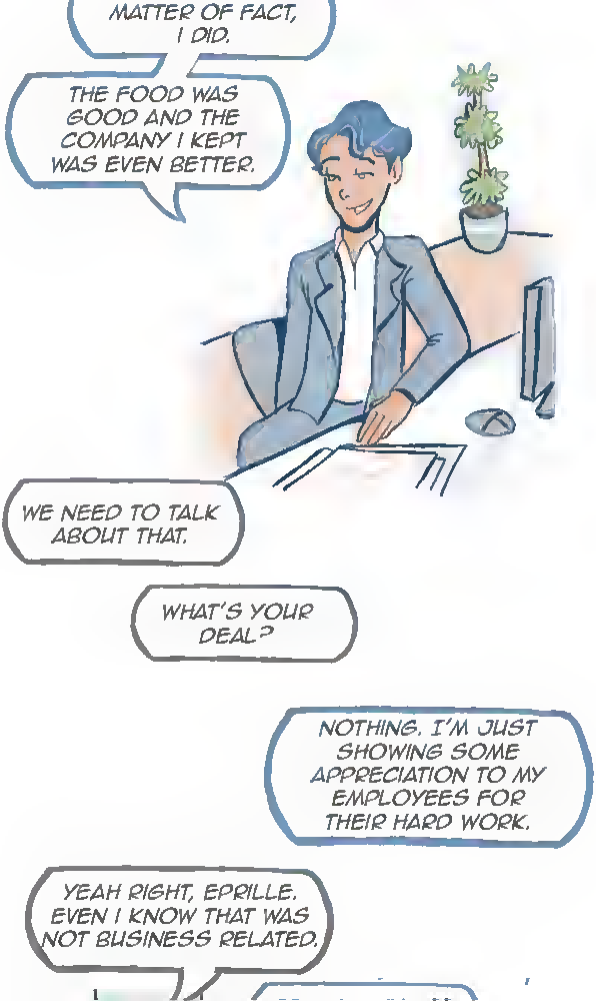
MAI, WE KNOW YOU ARE OBLIVIOUS AT TIMES, BUT SE-

RIOUSLY, THINK ABOUT THIS. EPRILLE GOES ON FAMS WITH MANAGEMENT. HE HAS NEVER TAKEN ANY OF US WITH HIM.



MEANWHILE.

HEY JOLINE, AS A

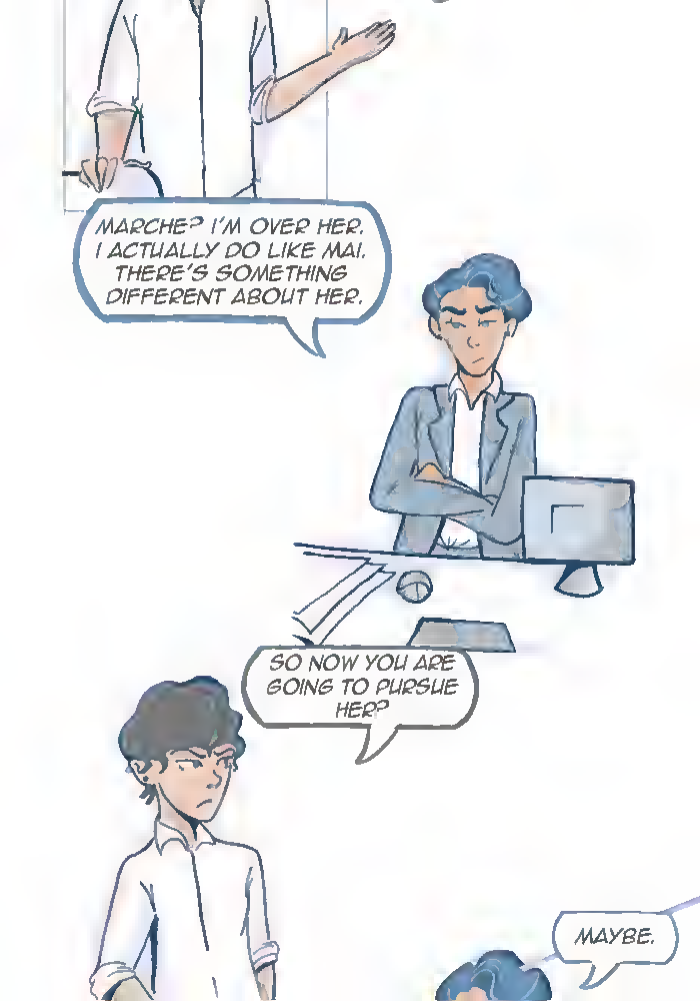

MATTER OF FACT, I DID.
THE FOOD WAS GOOD AND THE COMPANY I KEPT WAS EVEN BETTER.
WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT THAT.
WHAT'S YOUR DEAL?
NOTHING. I'M JUST SHOWING SOME APPRECIATION TO MY EMPLOYEES FOR THEIR HARD WORK.
YEAH RIGHT, EPRILLE. EVEN I KNOW THAT WAS NOT BUSINESS RELATED.

I'M BUSTING MY BUTT OVER HERE TRYING TO BRING YOUR SALES UP AND KEEP THE FAMILY FROM FINDING OUT ABOUT YOUR MISHAP.

WHILE HERE YOU ARE ENTERTAINING YOUR FEMALE EMPLOYEES?

NOT COOL EPRILLE. DO YOU EVEN LIKE THAT MINT HAIRED WOMAN ?

..OR IS THIS TO MAKE MARCHE JEALOUS?


MARCHE? I'M OVER HER. I ACTUALLY DO LIKE MAI. THERE'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT HER.
SO NOW YOU ARE GOING TO PURSUE HER?
MAYBE.

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